

[REDACTED]

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TO: OP1614Z JAN 90

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: NATIONAL POLICE ROLE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE
MURDERS OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL AMERICA

DOI: MID-DECEMBER 1989

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. IN MID-DECEMBER 1989 [REDACTED]
SAID THE NATIONAL POLICE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL
HOUSEHOLD TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE AND HONEST INVESTIGATION OF THE
MURDERS OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS AND TWO OTHER PERSONS WHICH OCCURRED ON
16 NOVEMBER 1989 AT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA). [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SAID SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS IN TURN ORDERED THE NATIONAL
POLICE DETECTIVE DIVISION TO CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF
THE MURDERS AND PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (SIU) INVESTIGATION. [REDACTED]
SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS ARE COMMITTED TO SOLVING THE MURDERS AND
BRINGING THE GUILTY PARTIES TO JUSTICE, WHETHER THEY ARE FROM THE
POLITICAL RIGHT OR LEFT, OR THE MILITARY.

2. THE NATIONAL POLICE ROLE HAS CONSISTED OF PROVIDING
TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE SIU, INCLUDING BALLISTIC COMPARISONS,
FINGERPRINT WORK AND ROUTINE INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE NATIONAL POLICE ALSO CONDUCTED A PRELIMINARY
INVESTIGATION, WHICH FAILED TO TURN UP ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE THE
INFORMATION GATHERED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE INVESTIGATION
CORRESPONDED WITH THAT OBTAINED BY THE SIU: THE AREA SURROUNDING THE
UCA CAMPUS WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES (ESAF)
AND SECURITY FORCES PERSONNEL; THERE WAS NO GUERRILLA ACTIVITY
REPORTED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA AROUND THE UCA ON THE NIGHT OF THE
MURDERS; AND THERE WERE NO ABANDONED OR STOLEN VEHICLES LEFT IN THE
AREA TO PROVIDE CLUES AS TO THE AUTHORS OF THE CRIME.

3. [REDACTED] EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THE
ESAF WAS INVOLVED IN THE MURDERS. HE SAID HE BASED THIS OPINION ON
THE FACT THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN THE IMMEDIATE
AREA AROUND THE PRIESTS' RESIDENCE PRIOR TO THE MURDERS, AND THAT
THERE WAS A HEAVY MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA. HE ADDED, HOWEVER,
THAT WHILE MANY IN THE NATIONAL POLICE SUSPECT ESAF PARTICIPATION IN
THE MURDERS, NO PROOF EXISTS TO IMPLICATE THE MILITARY IN THE CRIME.

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release
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